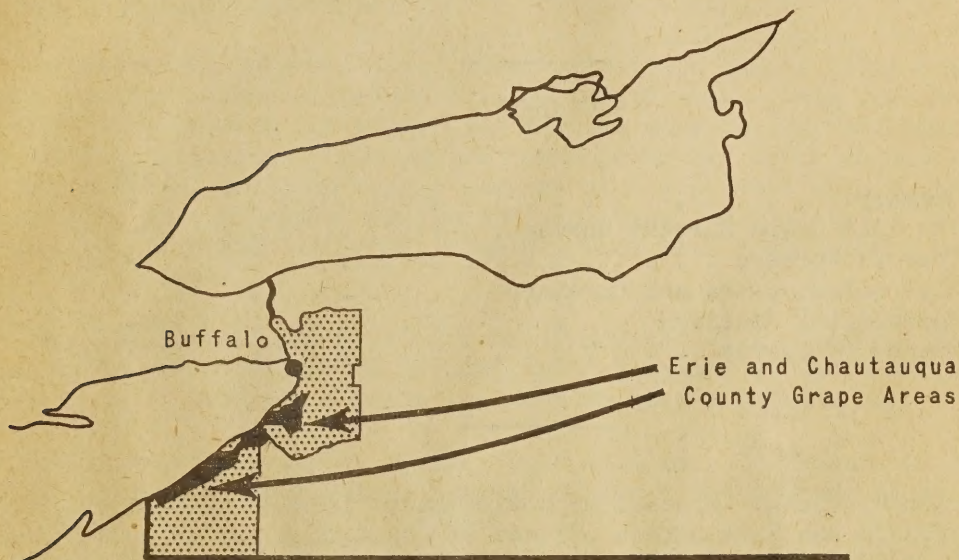


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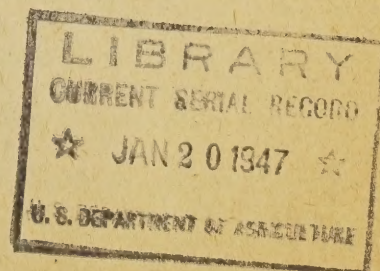
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

WAGES AND WAGE RATES OF GRAPE HARVEST WORKERS IN CHAUTAUQUA  
AND ERIE COUNTIES, NEW YORK, WEEK ENDED OCTOBER 14, 1945



Surveys of Wages and Wage Rates in Agriculture, Report Number 15

Washington, D. C.  
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## PREFATORY NOTE

This is the fifteenth of a series of reports to be issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics presenting results obtained from enumerative sample surveys of farm wages and farm wage rates. The surveys were planned under the general direction of Conrad Taeuber, Office of the Chief, by a Bureau-wide Committee with Louis J. Ducoff as chairman. Members of the Wage Project Committee are: Glen T. Barton, Emerson M. Brooks, Charles F. Cannell, Charles A. Gibbons, Margaret Jarman Hagood, Roger F. Hale, Earl E. Houseman, Barbara B. Reagan. The State Agricultural Statisticians cooperated in conducting the field operations of the surveys.

This report presents the information obtained on grape harvest workers on grape farms in Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York. In addition to reports on wages of harvest workers in special crop areas, other reports will be issued presenting wage and related information for all hired farm workers, both regular and seasonal, on the basis of the national surveys.

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Prepared by Helen M. Clark. Special acknowledgement is made to County Agricultural Agents and others in the Farm Bureau offices of Chautauqua and Erie Counties for their generous assistance with the preliminary work of planning and organizing this survey. Acknowledgement is made to the staff at the United States Employment Service office in Dunkirk, N. Y. for their cooperation, Catherine Senf of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, members of the staffs of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and of the Farm Manpower Service, New York State War Council, who assisted with numerous details of the field work and tabulating and analyzing the data, under the general supervision of R. L. Gillett, State Agricultural Statistician.



WAGES AND WAGE RATES OF GRAPE HARVEST WORKERS  
IN CHAUTAUQUA AND ERIE COUNTIES, NEW YORK, WEEK ENDED OCTOBER 14, 1945

SUMMARY

The survey included a sample of farms in Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, on which grapes were harvested for sale during the week ended October 14, 1945. Average earnings were 59 cents per hour for all hired workers.

Because of damage from spring frosts, the grape crop in these counties in 1945 was about half as large as average. As a result, most of the grapes were harvested within a 3-week period beginning October 8, when the juice factories started to process grape juice.

Half of the farms on which grapes were produced for sale had no hired workers during the survey week. Moreover, on all but a very small fraction of this half of the farms the operators and unpaid members of their families did all the grape harvest work.

Ninety-seven percent of the hired workers on sample farms were principally engaged in the grape harvest during the survey week. Only 3 percent were reported to have done any other type of farm work during the week ended October 14. Practically the entire labor force had to be recruited especially for the seasonal work, as only 6 percent of the workers were expected to have 150 or more days of employment on the reporting farm in 1945. Eighty-seven percent of all hired laborers probably worked less than 2 weeks on the reporters' farms.

Domestic white workers comprised 83 percent of the hired workers on the farms surveyed. Seventy-one percent of these domestic white workers were females and 12 percent of those reported by age were under 18.

A few Negro and Indian workers were employed. Prisoners of war and foreign importees comprised 14 percent of the hired workers on sample farms.

Nine percent of all hired workers were related to the farm operator.

Hourly rates were paid to 79 percent of the hired workers. Only 18 percent received piece-rates.

Workers regularly employed on the farm received 52 cents an hour for harvesting grapes and worked about 45 hours during the survey week. Seasonal grape harvest workers received 60 cents an hour and worked 28 hours during the survey week on the reporting farm.

Grape harvest workers paid piece rates earned 66 cents per hour compared with 58 cents for workers paid by the hour and 51 cents for those employed at other time rates. Labor cost per crate was lower and performance per hour higher for grape pickers paid piece rates than for pickers paid by the hour.

Piece workers picked an average of 3.4 crates of grapes per hour. At lower piece-rates, Jamaican pickers received higher hourly earnings than domestic pickers because of higher output. Domestic male piece-workers were paid slightly higher rates than female workers and on the whole picked more crates per hour.



Among all domestic seasonal grape harvest workers, female workers put in more hours at lower hourly earnings than did the men, and received larger pay envelopes for the week's work.

Hourly earnings and hours of work were less for Negroes and Indians than for seasonal domestic white workers. Foreign importees received higher hourly earnings and worked more hours during the week than any other race-source group.

Farms with larger vineyards employed relatively more piece workers than did farms with smaller vineyards. The larger vineyards also provided more hours of work and larger weekly earnings on the reporting farm.

Average weekly earnings of all sample workers were about \$17.30 but many put in less than a full week's work. Piece-workers earned an average of \$18.10 and regular workers \$24.00 during the survey week.

Sixty-five percent of all workers received perquisites of some kind, usually transportation, in addition to cash wages.



## 1. THE 1945 GRAPE HARVEST SURVEY

The grape belt in Chautauqua and Erie Counties is the largest grape producing area in New York State. Of approximately 30,000 tons of grapes produced in the State in 1945, about 12,000 tons were harvested in Chautauqua and Erie Counties. Spring frost damage reduced the 1945 grape production to about half an average crop.

Although the crop was small, labor requirements did not decrease proportionally. Almost as many vines had to be picked over as in an average season and perhaps nearly as many bunches were picked. However, there were fewer grapes in a bunch.

Concord grapes are the predominant variety grown in the two counties. More than 90 percent of the grapes produced in the area are sold to juice processing concerns. Nearly all grapes from Chautauqua County go to juice factories of which there are about 20 in the Chautauqua-Erie grape belt. Some Erie County grapes are sold on the fresh market.

In 1945, the ceiling price for grapes was \$127.50 per ton and market prices were higher than in recent years.

Grapes can be grown efficiently in certain types of soil found chiefly in the coastal plain bordering Lake Erie. A rather sharp ridge forms the southern edge of the grape belt and the northern edge is a little distance inland from the lake. Very few grapes are raised on the hill farms back from the lake.

Vines are picked over only once and some hired workers migrate from farm to farm as the season progresses.

In Chautauqua County and to some extent in Erie, the 1945 tomato harvest required the use of available hired labor until the harvest was terminated by frost. The same processing concerns handle both tomato juice and grape juice. In 1945, the factories did not open for grape juice until comparatively late in the season. The demand on labor for the tomato harvest and the short crop of grapes shortened the harvesting season to about 3 weeks.

The survey obtained data on the hours and earnings of grape harvest workers during the week ended October 14, 1945. Although there was some rain on two days during the survey week and vineyards were wet from previous rainy weather, it was the peak week of the grape harvest season in both counties.

From 377 sample farms on which grapes were produced for sale, records were obtained on 1,068 hired workers employed during the survey week. The sample farms had an average of 11 acres of grapes per farm. In Erie County, an average of 5 acres of grapes were harvested per farm and in Chautauqua County 12 acres per farm. This is higher than the average for all farms in the two counties because the method of outlining the sample was planned to obtain a maximum of information on hired workers. Farms on which grapes were not produced for sale were omitted entirely.

The number of acres of grapes per farm on which hired workers were employed during the survey week were 11 and 16 respectively for Erie and Chautauqua Counties.



Table 1: Distribution of Sample Grape Farms 1/ by Number of Hired Workers, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

Number of Hired Workers	Number of Farms		Number of Farms	
	Total		Chautauqua Co. :	Erie Co.
	Number	Percent	Number	Number
Total	377	100	315	62
0	187	50	146	41
1	14	4	13	1
2	35	9	32	3
3	22	6	20	2
4	31	8	28	3
5	19	5	19	-
6	16	4	15	1
7	8	2	5	3
8	12	3	9	3
9	5	1	2	3
10 and over	28	8	26	2

1/ Farms producing grapes for sale.

Fifty percent of the farms in the sample employed no hired workers during the survey week. This includes 47 percent having no hired labor for the 1945 harvest season and 3 percent using no hired labor for harvesting during the survey week. A larger percentage of sample farms in Erie County did not have hired workers during the survey week than in Chautauqua County, where vineyards are about twice as large.

Table 2: Distribution of Sample Farms and Hired Workers by Acreage of Grapes, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

Acres of Grapes	Number of Farms		Total Number		Average Hired	
	Reported by		of Hired		Workers	
	Acreage		Workers		Per Farm	
Total	372		1052		3	
Under 5	117		76		1	
5 - 9	104		236		2	
10 - 14	59		180		3	
15 - 19	40		196		5	
20 - 24	30		162		5	
25 - 29	11		87		8	
30 - 34						
35 - 39						
40 and over	11		115		10	

Thirty-one percent of all farms reported by acreage harvested less than 5 acres of grapes in 1945. These small grape farms averaged less than 1 hired worker apiece for the survey week. The 11 largest grape farms had an average of 10 workers each. There were 6 hired workers per farm on farms using hired labor during the survey week.



Twenty-eight percent of the sample farms reported 5-9 acres of grapes and employed 23 percent of the workers. These farms hired an average of 2 workers per farm. Three percent of the sample farms operated at least 40 acres of vineyards and they employed 11 percent of the workers.

Table 3: Distribution of Sample Farms by Man-days of Hired Labor Requirements for the Grape Harvest, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, 1945.

Man-days Hired Labor Requirements	:	Number of Farms	:	Percent of Total
Total Reporting	:	366	:	100
None	:	171	:	47
1 - 9	:	34	:	9
10 - 19	:	59	:	16
20 - 29	:	36	:	10
30 - 39	:	17	:	5
40 - 49	:	15	:	4
50 - 99	:	22	:	6
100 - 149	:	7	:	2
150 and over	:	5	:	1
Average per farm	:	17.6	:	

Almost half of the sample farms required no hired labor during the 1945 grape harvest. However, hired labor requirements for the 1945 harvest were probably lower than average because only about half the average crop was produced in the area.

## 2. TYPE OF WORKERS

Pickers use grape shears to cut the bunches of grapes from the vines. Sometimes the bunches are placed in baskets. More usually, however, they are placed in 28-pound boxes which rest upon stands that are moved along the row as picking progresses. Not much stooping is required and the work is generally regarded as fairly pleasant. The filled containers are loaded onto trucks for removal to the juice factories.

In the tables of this report, the term "workers" means hired workers employed during the survey week. "Grape harvest workers" include persons picking, loading and hauling grapes. "Other workers" are hired persons who spent any time at some other kind of work on the reporting farm. Of the "grape harvest workers", only 9 were loading or hauling the product to market. Seven of the 28 "other workers" were harvesting potatoes. Ninety-seven percent of the hired workers on sample farms were grape harvest workers.

"Other foreign workers" refers to imported foreign workers, mostly Jamaicans. All non-foreign workers are classified as "domestic." Regular workers are those for whom the operator expected to have at least 150 days of employment on the reporting farm in 1945 and seasonal workers were those who were expected to have less.



Table 4: Distribution of Hired Workers by Source, Race, Sex, Age, Duration of Employment and Relationship to Farm Operator, Grape Farms, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

Item Reported	: All		: Grape Harvest Workers				: Other	
	: Workers		: Piece Rate		: Time Rate		: Workers	
	: Number	: Percent	: Number	: Percent	: Number	: Percent	: Number	: Percent
Total Reporting Source	1064	100	195	100	841	100	28	100
Domestic (non-foreign)	918	86	178	91	721	86	19	68
Prisoners	104	10	-	-	104	12	-	-
Other Foreign <u>1/</u>	42	4	17	9	16	2	9	32
Total Reporting Race (Excluding Foreign Workers)	918	100	178	100	721	100	19	100
White	885	96	177	99	689	96	19	100
Negro	19	2	1	1	18	2	-	-
Indian	14	2	-	-	14	2	-	-
Total Reporting Sex	1063	100	195	100	840	100	28	100
Males	403	38	68	35	314	37	21	75
Females	660	62	127	65	526	63	7	25
Males Reporting Age <u>2/</u>	231	100	52	100	159	100	20	100
Under 18	26	11	5	10	20	12	1	5
18 - 24	29	13	7	13	19	12	3	15
25 - 44	101	44	27	52	62	39	12	60
45 - 64	54	23	6	12	44	28	4	20
65 and over	21	9	7	13	14	9	-	-
Females Reporting Age <u>2/</u>	506	100	97	100	402	100	7	100
Under 18	57	11	22	23	35	9	-	-
18 - 24	40	8	13	13	27	7	-	-
25 - 44	239	47	37	38	200	49	2	3/
45 - 64	130	26	15	16	113	28	2	3/
65 and over	40	8	10	10	27	7	3	3/
Total Reporting Duration of Employment	1064	100	195	100	841	100	28	100
Regular (150 days and over)	69	6	-	-	48	6	21	75
Seasonal (Less than 150 days) <u>4/</u>	995	94	195	100	793	94	7	25
Total <u>5/</u>	1068	100	195	100	845	100	28	100
Related	97	9	17	9	79	9	1	4
Not Related	971	91	178	91	766	91	27	96

1/ "Other foreign" workers are imported nationals.

2/ Ages of workers employed in crews were not requested.

3/ Sample too small for accurate percentages.

4/ Information on duration of employment was not obtained for 217 grape harvest workers employed in crews, who are assumed to be seasonal workers.

5/ Relationship to farm operator was not obtained for 217 grape harvest workers employed in crews, who are assumed to be seasonal workers not related to the farm operator.



A large proportion of the workers in the grape harvest are local residents. It is customary for women living on farms and in villages in the grape belt of Chautauqua and Erie Counties to go out to pick grapes. Sixty-two percent of the hired workers employed on sample farms during the survey week were women. Ninety-seven percent of these women were seasonal workers.

Many people living on the less productive hill farms go down to the coastal plain each fall to work in the grape harvest. Frequently, the same people from hill farms are employed by a particular grower year after year during the harvest.

Some week-end labor consisting of school children and other local residents is used for grape harvesting. Eleven percent of all hired workers who were reported by age were under 18 years old.

Prisoners of war, imported foreign workers, Negroes and Indians were also employed in the 1945 grape harvest. Ten percent of the sample workers were prisoners, 4 percent were imported foreign workers, 2 percent were Negroes and 1 percent were Indians.

Of the hired workers employed on sample farms, only 6 percent were regularly employed for the major part of the year.

Some farms in the area have bunk-houses to accommodate seasonal harvest workers. These bunk-houses are occupied first by strawberry pickers. They are occupied next by raspberry pickers, and finally by grape pickers. Some of the same workers remain for the several crop harvests.

Table 5: Distribution of Hired Workers by Race-Source, Grape Farms, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

County	:Total Reported:		Domestic								Foreign <u>1/</u>
	: by Source :		White		Negro		Indian				
	:Number:	:Percent:	:Number:	:Percent:	:Number:	:Percent:	:Number:	:Percent:	:Number:	:Percent:	
Total	1064	100	885	83	19	2	14	1	146	14	
Chautauqua	936	100	786	84	19	2	8	1	123	13	
Erie	128	100	99	77	-	-	6	5	23	18	

1/ Includes imported nationals and prisoners of war.

About 86 percent of the hired labor force employed on sample grape farms were domestic workers, including a few Negroes and Indians. The Indians were from the nearby Cattaraugus Reservation.

Ten percent of the hired labor force were prisoners of war from the camps at Brocton, Fredonia and Westfield in Chautauqua County. Four percent of the workers were "other foreign" persons, mostly Jamaicans. Some of the Jamaicans were from the central camp at Brant in Erie County. In both counties, some Jamaicans were housed on the farms in quarters provided by the growers. 1/

1/ Information concerning camps and housing facilities for foreign workers was obtained from records of the Farm Labor Coordinator.



Table 6: Distribution of Hired Workers by Sex, Race-Source, and Duration of Employment, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

Type of Worker	Males	Females
Reporting Duration of Employment		
Number	399	656
Percent	100	100
Regular (percent)	13	3
Seasonal (percent)	87	97
Reporting Race-Source		
Number	399	656
Percent	100	100
Domestic White (percent)	62	96
Domestic Negro and Indian (percent)	2	4
Foreign Workers (percent) <u>1/</u>	36	-

1/ Includes imported nationals and prisoners of war.

Of the female workers all but 4 percent were domestic whites, the exceptions being Negroes and American Indians. All of the foreign workers were men and constituted 36 percent of the male workers. The remaining males were nearly all domestic whites. A vast majority of all workers were only seasonally employed.

Table 7: Distribution of Hired Workers by Age and Duration of Employment, Grape Farms, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

Age	Regular Workers (150 days and over)	Seasonal Workers (Less than 150 days)
Total reporting age <u>1/</u>		
Number	66	667
Percent	100	100
Under 18 (percent)	3	12
18 - 24 (percent)	15	9
25 - 44 "	43	46
45 - 64 "	34	24
65 and over "	5	9

1/ Age and duration of employment were not requested for workers reported in crews.

Among both seasonal and regular workers, as well as in all racial groups, the largest proportion of workers was made up of those between 25 and 44 years old. Second in size was the 45 - 64 year group.

Age classifications include only the workers reported on individually and therefore exclude all prisoners of war and some other seasonal workers.



Table 8: Distribution of Hired Workers by Operation, Unit of Payment, Duration of Employment, Source and Sex, Grape Farms, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

Operation and Unit of Payment	:All Rep- :orted by :Duration :of Employ- :ment, Source: :and Sex	:Regular :Workers :(150 days :or more)	:Seasonal Workers (Less than 150 days)		
			: Foreign	: Domestic	: Domestic
			: 1/	: Males	: Females
All Reported by Unit of Payment	1055	69	131	216	639
Percent	100	100	100	100	100
Piece Rate <u>2/</u> (Percent)	18	-	13	24	20
Hourly Rate (Percent)	79	78	87	74	79
Daily Rate (Percent)	1	-	-	2	1
Weekly Rate (Percent)	1	4	-	-	-
Monthly Rate (Percent)	1	18	-	-	-
Grape Harvest Workers	1027	48	131	213	635
Percent	100	100	100	100	100
Piece Rate (Percent)	18	-	13	24	20
Hourly Rate (Percent)	79	77	87	74	79
Daily Rate (Percent)	1	-	-	2	1
Weekly Rate (Percent)	1	4	-	-	-
Monthly Rate (Percent)	1	19	-	-	-
Other Workers (Number)	28	21	3	3	4

1/ Includes imported foreign workers and prisoners of war. Fifteen Jamaicans worked 150 days or more during the year on the reporting farm and are included with regular workers.

2/ Piece workers were usually paid per 28-pound crate. On 2 farms, workers were paid per 18-pound crate.

Table 8 shows that all regular workers received time rates, mostly hourly rates. Seasonal workers were paid by the piece, by the hour, or by the day.

In Erie County, none of the hired workers received piece rates; in Chautauqua County, 21 percent received piece rates.

It is possible that more workers preferred hourly rates to piece rates in 1945, because of the lightness of the crop and unevenness of yields.



Table 9: Distribution of Hired Workers by Operation, Duration of Employment, Race and Source, Grape Farms, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

Operation and Duration of Employment	: All Re- : Domestic (Non-foreign) :				
	ported by: All : : : : :				
	: Race and : Domestic : White : and : : 1/				
	: Source : Workers : : Indian : :				
Grape Harvest Workers Reported by Duration of Employment	1026	895	862	33	131
Percent	100	100	100	100	100
Regular (Percent)	4	5	5	-	-
Seasonal (Percent)	96	95	95	-	100
15-149 days (Percent)	9	8	9	-	13
1- 14 days (Percent)	59	68	69	45	-
Days not specified 2/ (Percent)	28	19	17	55	87

1/ Includes imported nationals and prisoners of war.

2/ Information on duration of employment was not obtained for workers reported in crews, who are assumed to be seasonal workers.

Fifty-nine percent of the workers in the sample were expected to have work of 2 weeks or less duration on the reporting farms. An additional 28 percent of all workers were members of crews. Vineyards were picked over only once and the picking crews usually moved to another vineyard as soon as one was finished. Therefore, it is assumed that nearly all the workers in these 2 groups, totalling 87 percent of the workers surveyed, worked 2 weeks or less on sample farms, and, for the most part, were hired for the grape harvest only.

The average expected duration of employment on reporting farms in 1945 was 231 days for regular workers and 11 days for seasonal workers.

Table 10: Percent of All Workers Receiving Piece Rates, by Size of Grape Acreage on Reporting Farm, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

	: Total on : Acres of Grapes on Reporting Farms							
	: Farms Re- : : : : : :							
	: ported : Under : 5-9 : 10-14 : 15-19 : 20-29 : 30-39 : 40 and							
	: by Size : 5 : : : : : : : over							
Number of Workers	1,048	76	236	176	196	162	87	115
Percent Receiving Piece Rates	18	11	9	13	17	23	66	14



### 3. WAGE RATES, HOURS AND EARNINGS

Data were obtained from 1,040 workers regarding hours and earnings on the reporting farms during the survey week. Average cash earnings of the grape harvest workers surveyed were 59 cents per hour. With 7.7 hours of work per day, these workers had an average daily cash wage of \$4.60, for the days on which work was done.

Table 11: Time Worked and Earnings of Hired Workers by Operation and Unit of Payment, Grape Farms, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

Type of Workers	Earnings on				Time Worked on		
	:Number :	Reporting Farm		:	Reporting Farm		
	: of :	:	:	:Hours	:Days	:Hours	
	:Workers:	:Hourly	:Daily	:Weekly	:per Day:	:per Week:	:per Week
Total with Wages Reported	1040	\$ .59	\$4.60	\$17.30	7.8	3.8	29
Piece Rate	183	.66	4.90	18.10	7.5	3.7	27
Hourly Rate	834	.58	4.50	16.90	7.8	3.8	29
Other Time Rate	23	.48	4.30	26.10	8.8	6.1	54
Grape Harvest Workers	1014	.59	4.60	17.10	7.7	3.7	29
Piece Rate	183	.66	4.90	18.10	7.5	3.7	27
Hourly Rate	811	.58	4.50	16.60	7.7	3.7	29
Other Time Rate	20	.51	4.40	27.00	8.6	6.2	53
Other Workers	26	.49	4.40	25.70	8.9	5.9	53
Piece Rate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Time Rate	26	.49	4.40	25.70	8.9	5.9	53

The few other workers, most of whom were males steadily employed on the reporting farm, had average cash earnings of only 49 cents per hour but worked more hours during the survey week than did grape harvest workers. This difference in time worked more than made up for differences in hourly earnings, resulting in weekly earnings of \$25.70 for other workers compared with only \$17.10 for grape harvest workers.

Hourly earnings of piece workers differed widely from earnings of workers paid time rates. Piece workers, all of whom were seasonally employed, received 66 cents per hour for 27 hours of work during the survey week. Workers paid by the hour, including 104 prisoners and some regular workers, received 8 cents less per hour and averaged 2 hours more per week than piece-workers. Workers paid other time rates, about 40 percent of whom were seasonally employed, earned 48 cents an hour and worked twice as many hours during the survey week as piece-workers. Although rain interfered with grape harvesting to some extent on 2 days during the survey week, workers paid at other time rates worked an average of 54 hours.



Table 12: Time Worked and Earnings of Hired Workers by Operation and Duration of Employment 1/, Grape Farms, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

Type of Workers	Earnings on			Time Worked on		
	Reporting Farm			Reporting Farm		
	Number	of	Workers	Hours	Days	Hours
	:Workers	:Hourly	:Daily	:Weekly	:per Day	:per Week
Total with Wages Reported						
All Regular Workers	65	\$ .50	\$4.30	\$24.00	8.6	5.6
All Seasonal Workers	967	.60	4.60	16.90	7.7	3.7
Grape Harvest Workers						
Regular	46	.52	4.30	23.10	8.3	5.4
Seasonal	960	.60	4.60	16.80	7.7	3.7
Other Workers	26	.49	4.40	25.70	8.9	5.9

1/ Regular workers are those with 150 or more days' work expected on reporting farm in 1945; seasonal workers are those with less than 150 days' work expected.

The 65 regular workers in the sample earned 50 cents an hour for a 48-hour work week. The 967 seasonal workers earned 60 cents an hour but averaged only 28 hours of work for the week.

Table 13: Distribution of Piecework Grape Pickers by Rates Received, and Related Information, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

Rate per Crate	Total Pickers		Domestic Pickers				Foreign Pickers	
	Reported by		Source and Sex				1/	
	Number		Males		Females		Number	
	:Percent	:Number	:Percent	:Number	:Percent	:Number	:Percent	:Number
Total Reported by								
Rate per Crate of								
28 pounds	182	100	47	100	118	100	17	100
\$.15	55	30	10	22	31	26	14	82
.16	12	6	3	6	9	8	-	-
.17	3	2	-	-	-	-	3	18
.18	23	13	4	9	19	16	-	-
.20	44	24	16	34	28	24	-	-
.22	9	5	2	4	7	6	-	-
.25	26	14	9	19	17	14	-	-
.30	7	4	3	6	4	3	-	-
.40	3	2	-	-	3	3	-	-

Related Information for Piecework Pickers 2/

Average Hourly Earnings	\$ .66	\$ .66	\$ .59	\$ .69
Average Number Crates Picked per Hour	3.4	3.2	3.0	4.4
Average Rate per Crate	\$ .19	\$ .21	\$ .20	\$ .16

(Footnotes on page 13)



Table 13: (Footnotes)

- 1/ These are imported nationals.
- 2/ Average hourly earnings are based on all piecework pickers; average number of 28-pound crates per hour is based on pickers paid by the crate and reporting number of crates picked; average rate per crate is obtained by dividing average earnings by average performance per hour and thus corresponds to an average weighted by crates picked.

Practically all piece-work pickers were paid by the crate containing about 28 pounds of grapes. A wide range of piece-rates was reported, possibly because of the wide variation in yields. One reporter stated that he paid two different piece rates because of variation in yield. About 30 percent of all piece-rate pickers received 15 cents per crate -- the lowest rate reported. Other rates ranged up to 40 cents per crate. The most frequently reported rate for piece-workers was 20 cents per crate for domestic workers and 15 cents per crate for foreign workers.

Domestic male piece-work pickers received higher rates per crate than female piece-work pickers, picked more crates per hour, and had higher hourly earnings.

Imported foreign nationals, mostly Jamaicans, picked more crates per hour at lower piece rates and averaged higher hourly earnings than either domestic male or domestic female piece-rate pickers.

Table 14: Time Worked, Earnings and Performance of Seasonal 1/ Grape Pickers by Unit of Payment, Grape Farms, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

Unit of Payment	:Num- :ber of :Work- :ers :	:Rate :per :Crate :(28 lb) :2/ :	:Crates :per :Hour :	:Hour- :ly :Earn- :ings :	:Hours :per :Day :	:Crates :per :Day :	:Dai- :ly :Earn- :ings
Seasonal Pickers with Time Worked, Earnings and Performance Reported	707	\$.23	2.7	\$.60	7.6	20	\$4.60
Piece Rate	188	.19	3.4	.66	7.3	25	4.80
Hourly Rate	510	.25	2.4	.59	7.7	18	4.50
Daily Rate	9	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/

- 1/ Duration of employment was not requested for 217 workers reported in crews, who are assumed to be seasonal workers.
- 2/ Average earnings divided by average performance per hour, and thus corresponds to an average weighted by crates picked.
- 3/ Sample too small for accurate averages.

Although Table 14 clearly suggests greater performance by piece-work pickers than by those paid by the hour, the method of payment to workers was affected to some extent by the condition of the crop. Workers are usually able to pick more grapes per hour on stands with good yields than on those with poor yields. On farms having low or uneven yields, it is likely that hourly rates were found more satisfactory than piece rates. Accordingly, the variation in performance between piece-rate pickers and pickers paid by the hour probably reflects differences in yields as well as the difference of incentive resulting from these methods of payment.



Table 15: Time Worked and Earnings of Hired Workers by Race and Source, Grape Farms, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

		Earnings on			Time Worked on		
	Number	Reporting Farms			Reporting Farms		
Type of Workers	of				Hours	Days	Hours
	Workers:	Hourly	Daily	Weekly	per	per	per
	:	:	:	:	Day	Week	Week
All Reported by Race and Source							
Domestic White	853	\$ .59	\$4.50	\$18.30	7.7	4.0	31
Negro and Indian	33	.56	4.50	13.40	8.1	3.0	24
Foreign <u>1/</u>	146	.58	4.50	12.10	7.8	2.7	21
Seasonal Grape Harvest Workers							
Domestic White	796	.60	4.60	18.00	7.6	3.9	30
Negro and Indian	33	.56	4.50	13.40	8.1	3.0	24
Foreign <u>1/</u>	131	.61	4.50	10.30	7.4	2.3	17
Regular Grape Harvest Workers							
Domestic White	40	.52	4.40	23.00	8.4	5.3	44
Negro and Indian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Foreign <u>1/</u>	6	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>
Other Workers	26	.49	4.40	25.70	8.9	5.9	53

1/ Prisoners of war and imported foreign workers.

2/ Sample too small for accurate averages.

Foreign workers received higher hourly earnings than any other race-source group of seasonal workers. Twelve percent of the foreign workers were piece-workers who received an average of 66 cents per hour. Also included among foreign workers were 104 prisoners of war who received comparatively low hourly earnings.

Among the seasonally employed workers, the small group of domestic Negroes and Indians received lower hourly earnings and had fewer hours of employment during the survey week than domestic white workers.



Table 16: Time Worked and Earnings of Hired Workers by Age and Sex, Grape Farms, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

Type of Workers	:	:	Earnings on			:	Time Worked on		
	:	Number :	Reporting Farms			:	Reporting Farms		
	:	of :	:	:	:	:	Hours :	Days :	Hours
	:	Workers:	Hourly :	Daily :	Weekly :	:	per :	per :	per
	:	:	:	:	:	Day :	Week :	Week	
All Workers Reported by Age and Sex									
Males		383	\$ .57	\$4.50	\$15.20	7.8	3.4	27	
Under 18		23	.59	3.80	14.60	6.4	3.8	25	
18 - 24		22	.59	4.50	20.90	7.7	4.6	36	
25 - 44		90	.55	4.60	20.30	8.4	4.4	37	
45 - 64		50	.54	4.30	20.40	8.0	4.7	38	
65 and over		17	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	
Age not reported <u>2/</u>		181	.60	4.50	10.20	7.5	2.3	17	
Females		608	.58	4.50	18.70	7.8	4.1	32	
Under 18		51	.56	4.10	15.60	7.3	3.8	28	
18 - 24		31	.56	4.20	17.60	7.5	4.2	31	
25 - 44		220	.59	4.60	20.60	7.8	4.4	35	
45 - 64		117	.59	4.50	19.70	7.6	4.4	34	
65 and over		18	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	
Age not reported <u>2/</u>		171	.59	4.70	16.60	7.9	3.5	28	

1/ Averages not given because of the small number of workers.

2/ Information regarding ages was not requested for workers reported in crews, including all prisoners of war.

Male workers had fewer hours of work during the week than female workers. Males under 18 and those 18-24 years old received somewhat higher hourly earnings than females in corresponding age groups. The average hourly earnings of all males, however, were practically the same as for all females -- 58 and 57 cents, respectively.

Table 17: Time Worked and Earnings of Domestic (non-foreign) Workers by Relationship 1/ to Farm Operator, Grape Farms, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

Type of Workers	:	:	Earnings on			:	Time Worked on		
	Number	:	Reporting Farms			:	Reporting Farms		
	of	:	:	:	:	Hours	Days	Hours	
	Workers:	Hourly	Daily	Weekly	:	per	per	per	
:	:	:	:	:	:	Day	Week	Week	
All Domestic Workers Reported by Relationship to Farm Operator									
Related	84	\$ .59	\$4.40	\$19.70	7.4	4.5	33		
Not Related	802	.59	4.60	18.00	7.8	3.9	31		

1/ Information regarding relationship to farm operator was not requested for workers reported in crews, who are assumed to be not related to farm operator.



Of the domestic workers, those not related to the farm operator worked fewer hours during the survey week and received lower cash weekly earnings than workers related to the farm operator.

Table 18: Time Worked and Earnings of Hired Workers by Size of Grape Acreage on Reporting Farms and Types of Workers, Grape Farms, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

Type of Workers and Size of Grape Acreage	:	:	Earnings on			Time Worked on		
			:	:	:	Reporting Farms		
						Reporting Farms		
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
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1/ Sample too small for reliable averages.

Apparently there was a tendency for workers on farms with larger grape acreages to have higher hourly earnings, and to have more hours of work on the reporting farms during the survey week. The higher hourly earnings are partly a result of the fact that workers on large farms more often received piece-rates than those on small farms. The fuller work-week results partly from the fact that harvest in the large vineyards was more likely to extend over the entire week of the survey. Since the vines are picked over only once, probably less than a week's work was required to harvest the entire crop on farms with small vineyards.



Wide variations in time worked and earnings among groups of foreign workers were due to the shifting of prisoners of war from farm to farm during the week and their correspondingly short work week on reporting farms.

Table 19: Distribution of Hired Workers by Hourly Earnings and Type of Workers, Grape Farms, Chautaucua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

Hourly Earnings	: Total	Grape Harvest Workers						: Other Workers	
		: Regular	: Total	Seasonal			: Domestic Males		: Domestic Females
				: Foreign	: Domestic	: Domestic			
Total <u>1/</u>	980	46	908	131	194	583	26		
Less than \$.20	4	2	2	-	-	2	-		
\$.20 - \$.39	23	2	19	3	3	13	2		
.40 - .59	354	24	310	93	70	147	20		
.60 - .79	574	18	552	35	109	408	4		
.80 - .99	9	-	9	-	4	5	-		
1.00 - 1.19	8	-	8	-	4	4	-		
1.20 and over	8	-	8	-	4	4	-		
Average hourly earnings <u>1/</u>	\$.59	\$.52	\$.60	\$.61	\$.60	\$.59	\$.49		

1/ Totals are workers reported by duration of employment, sex, race, source, and complete information on time worked and earnings. Averages are based upon ungrouped data for all workers.

Wide variations in hourly earnings were found, especially among domestic seasonal workers. For these workers the hourly earnings most often reported were between 60 and 79 cents. For the remaining workers, the hourly earnings most often reported were between 40 and 59 cents.

Table 20: Distribution of Hired Workers by Days Worked During Survey Week and by Type of Worker, Grape Farms, Chautaucua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

Days Worked During Survey Week on Reporting Farm	:	:	Grape Harvest Workers						:
	:	:	:	Seasonal				:	
	:	Total	Regular	Total	Foreign	Domestic	Domestic	Other	
	:	:	:	:	Males	Females	Workers		
Total Number Workers <u>1/</u>		980	46	908	131	194	583	26	
1		174	4	170	65	47	58	-	
2		147	2	145	35	33	77	-	
3		102	-	101	6	17	78	1	
4		117	2	115	-	26	89	-	
5		140	-	140	-	23	117	-	
6		274	35	214	25	38	151	25	
7		26	3	23	-	10	13	-	
Average Days Worked <u>1/</u>		3.8	5.4	3.7	2.3	3.5	4.1	5.9	

1/ Totals are workers reported by duration of employment, sex, race, source and complete information on time worked and earnings. Averages are based on reports for all workers.



Although some rain occurred on two days during the survey week, 31 percent of the workers worked at least 6 days. Among the domestic seasonal grape harvesters, females worked on the average about a half-day longer during the week than did males.

Seasonal Jamaican grape harvest workers averaged 4.6 days of work during the survey week, compared with only 1.7 days for prisoners of war.

Table 21: Distribution of Hired Workers by Hours Worked During Survey Week and by Type of Worker, Grape Farms, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

Hours Worked :		Grape Harvest Workers					
During Week :		Seasonal					
on Reporting :		Total	Regular	Domestic		Domestic	Other
Farm :		Total	Foreign	Males	Females		Workers
Total Number							
Workers	980	46	908	131	194	583	26
1 - 9	174	4	170	55	44	71	-
10 - 19	157	2	154	39	38	77	1
20 - 29	125	-	125	12	19	94	-
30 - 39	120	3	117	-	29	88	-
40 - 49	344	23	311	25	57	229	10
50 - 59	30	6	21	-	5	16	3
60 and over	30	8	10	-	2	8	12
Percent of All							
Man-hours <u>1/</u>	100%	7%	89%	7%	20%	62%	4%

1/ Based on total hours worked during survey week by each type of workers.

Seasonal grape harvest workers made up 93 percent of all workers in the sample and put in 89 percent of the total man-hours of hired labor used on the sample farms during the survey week. Regular workers on grape farms comprised only 4 percent of the grape harvest workers in the sample, but they put in 7 percent of the man-hours of hired labor.

#### 4. PERQUISITES RECEIVED

Sixty-five percent of the workers in the sample received without charge some perquisites. Only 8 percent of all workers received the rent of a house or lodging in the operator's house. Most of the large number of workers classified as receiving "other perquisites" received only transportation.



Table 22: Percent of Hired Workers Receiving Specified Perquisites by Duration of Employment and Operation, Grape Farms, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

Item	:	Total	Grape Harvest		:	Other
			Workers			
			Regular	Seasonal		
Total Number of Workers		1064	48	988		28
Percent		100	100	100		100
Percent Receiving						
House or Lodging and Meals <u>1/</u>		5	12	4		11
House or Lodging Without Meals		3	48	-		43
Other Perquisites		57	21	59		39
No Perquisites		35	19	37		7

1/ Meals are defined as 2 or more meals per day.

More than half of the regular workers on grape farms received house or lodging, probably the item of greatest value.

Table 23: Distribution of Hired Workers by Race-Source, Duration of Employment and Perquisites Received, Grape Farms, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

Duration of Employment and Item	Domestic				Foreign <u>1/</u>
	All	White	Negro	and	
	Domestic				
	Workers		Indian		
Total Reporting Duration of Employment	1060	881	33		146
Percent	100	100	100		100
Percent Receiving					
House or Lodging and Meals <u>1/</u>	5	6	3		-
House or Lodging Without Meals	3	4	-		-
Other Perquisites	57	52	55		84
No Perquisites	35	38	42		16
Regular Workers (150 days or more)	69	54	-		15
Percent	100	100	-		100
Percent Receiving					
House or Lodging and Meals	13	17	-		-
House or Lodging Without Meals	42	54	-		-
Other Perquisites	29	9	-		100
No Perquisites	16	20	-		-
Seasonal Workers (Less than 150 days)	991	827	33		131
Percent	100	100	100		100

(Table continued on Page 20)

Table 23: Distribution of Hired Workers by Race-Source, Duration of Employment and Perquisites Received, Grape Farms, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945, Concluded.

Duration of Employment and Item	Domestic				Foreign <u>1/</u>
	:All	:	:Negro	:	
	:Domestic	:	White	:and	
	:Workers	:	:Indian	:	
Percent Receiving					
House or Lodging and Meals	4	5	3	-	
House or Lodging Without Meals	1	1	-	-	
Other Perquisites	59	55	55	82	
No Perquisites	36	39	42	18	

1/ Includes prisoners of war and imported nationals.

2/ Meals are defined as 2 or more meals per day.

Table 24: Time Worked and Earnings of Hired Workers With and Without House or Lodging, Grape Farms, Chautauqua and Erie Counties, New York, Week Ended October 14, 1945.

Type of Workers	: Number : of : Workers	: Hourly : Earnings	: Hours : Worked : per Day	: Daily : Earnings
All Workers With Wages Reported	1040	\$ .59	7.8	\$4.60
Receiving House or Lodging	86	.55	7.9	4.30
Not Receiving House or Lodging	954	.59	7.7	4.60
Grape Harvest Workers	1014	.59	7.7	4.60
Receiving House or Lodging	72	.57	7.8	4.40
Not Receiving House or Lodging	942	.60	7.7	4.60
Other Workers	26	.49	8.9	4.40

## 5. METHOD OF SURVEY

Data were obtained from a sample of farms which produced grapes for sale in 1945. About 2,500 farms raise grapes in Chautauqua and Erie Counties, but many of these farms produce grapes for home use only. About 90 percent of the combined grape acreage in the two counties is located in a belt along Lake Erie extending northeast from the Pennsylvania border nearly to Buffalo. This area was outlined on maps with the help of county agents and others familiar with the locality. The area was then divided into segments, bounded by roads, and numbered in systematic sequence across the two counties. Starting at random, alternate segments were drawn for the sample.



Owing to the exclusion of about 10 percent of all acreage in outlying areas, and because of some incompleteness in enumerations, sample farms included considerably less than half of all farms on which grapes were produced for sale in the two counties.

Farm operators in sample segments were included in the survey and were asked to report on the wages and time worked of all hired workers who were employed on their farms during the week ended October 14, 1945.

Because workers migrated from farm to farm as the season progressed, it is possible that some workers were reported on by more than one operator.

